

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously cancelled)

3 - 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) ~~The game of claim 4~~ A game adapted to be played on a grass surface, the game comprising:

one or more portable solid-surface game obstacles structured to cause a game ball to change vertical position relative to a playing field to which the obstacles are attached after said ball has been struck;

wherein at least one of the game obstacles is structured to cause a ball to travel in a helical loop and is further structured to be temporarily affixed to the playing field by removable securing stakes;

wherein the one or more obstacles each include receivers, the securing stakes each having a lower portion structured to pass through one of the receivers and each having an upper portion that is separated from the lower portion by a projection structured to mechanically interfere with an entrance of one of the receivers; and

wherein the upper portion is approximately the same length as the lower portion and the projection includes a diameter larger than a radial diameter of the upper or lower portions.

7. (Previously presented) The game of claim 6 wherein the upper portion includes a flag or other obstacle designator.

8 - 10. (Previously cancelled)

11 - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) ~~The obstacle of claim 13~~ A portable helical loop yard game obstacle, comprising:

a main surface having a generally helical curved shape;

an entrance of the main surface lying on top of a playing surface;

an attaching device attaching the entrance to the playing surface, wherein the obstacle is removably positional in different orientations on the playing surface;

at least one receiver coupled to the entrance of the obstacle and structured to accept the attaching device therethrough, wherein the attaching device includes a lower portion structured to pass through an opening of the receiver and an upper portion that is separated from the lower portion by a projection structured to mechanically interfere with the opening;

wherein the projection includes a diameter larger than the opening; and

wherein the upper portion is approximately the same length as the lower portion.

15. (Previously presented) The obstacle of claim 14 including a flag or other obstacle designator connected to the upper portion.

16 - 26. (Cancelled).

27. (Previously Presented) A croquet obstacle set, comprising:

a first obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to ramp a croquet ball that enters an entry portion of the first obstacle;

a second obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to cause a croquet ball that enters an entry portion of the second obstacle to travel in a helical loop;

a third obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to cause a croquet ball to travel around a banked curve structure; and

a fourth obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to ramp through an inclined tunnel a croquet ball that enters an entry portion of the fourth obstacle.

28. (Previously Presented) The croquet set of claim 27 wherein at least one of the obstacles structured to be temporarily securable to a playing surface includes a securing device coupled to the at least one obstacle.

29. (Original) The croquet set of claim 28 wherein the securing device is a receiver through which a stake can pass.

30 - 34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The game of claim 1~~ A game adapted to be played on a grass surface, the game comprising:

one or more portable solid-surface game obstacles structured to cause a game ball to change vertical position relative to a playing field to which the obstacles are attached after said ball has been struck,

wherein at least one of the game obstacles is structured to cause a ball to travel in a helical loop and is further structured to be temporarily affixed to the playing field by removable securing stakes; and

wherein at least one of the game obstacles is structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to cause a croquet ball to travel around a banked curve structure.

36 - 39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) ~~The croquet obstacle set of claim 39~~ A croquet obstacle set, comprising:

a first obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to ramp a croquet ball that enters an entry portion of the first obstacle; and

a second obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to cause a croquet ball that enters an entry portion of the second obstacle to travel in a helical loop; and

a third obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to cause a croquet ball to travel around a banked curve structure.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) A croquet obstacle set, comprising:

a first obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to cause a croquet ball to travel around a banked curve structure; and

a second obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to cause a croquet ball that enters an entry portion of the second obstacle to travel in a helical loop.

43. (Previously presented) The croquet obstacle set of claim 42 including a third obstacle structured to be temporarily secured to a playing surface and structured to ramp through an inclined tunnel a croquet ball that enters an entry portion of the third obstacle.

44. (Cancelled)